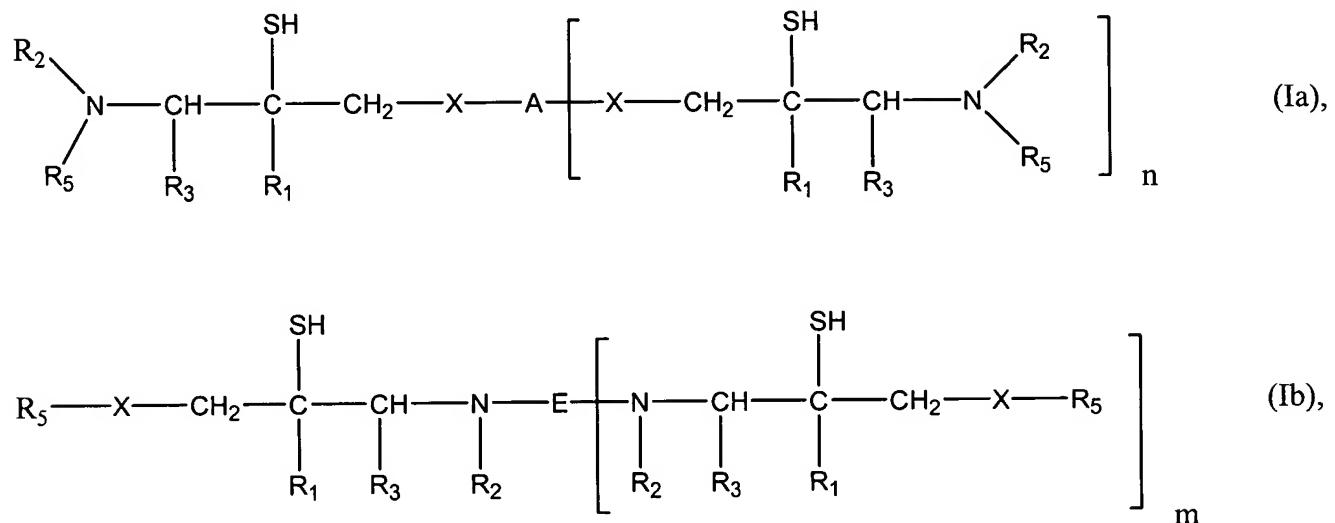


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A compound of formula Ia or Ib,



wherein A is an (n + 1)-valent aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic radical and n is an integer from 0 to 5,

E is an (m+1)-valent aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic radical and m is an integer from 0 to 3,

X is -O-, [-COO-] -C(=O)O or -CHR<sub>4</sub>-, with R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> together forming an ethylene group,

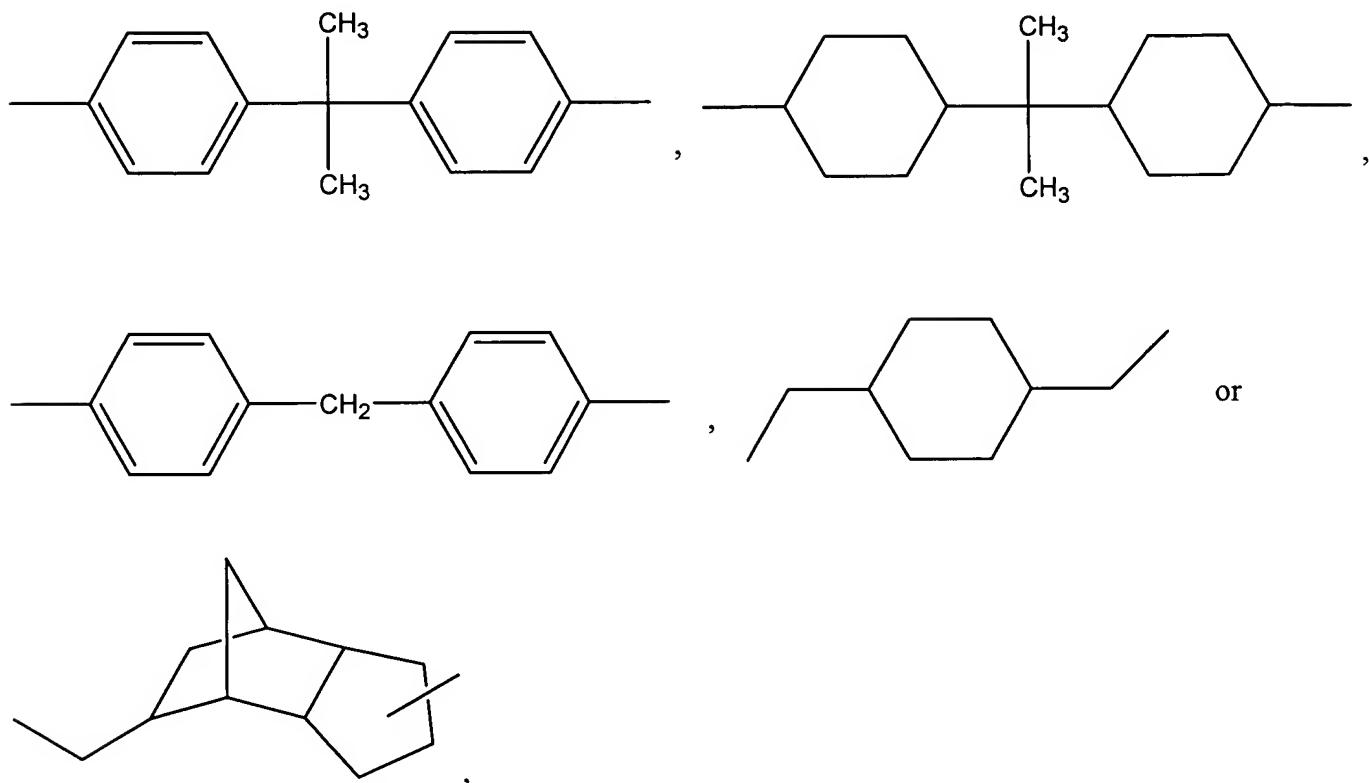
R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are, each independently of the other, hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen,

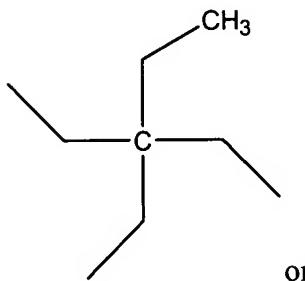
And R<sub>5</sub> is a monovalent aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic radical.

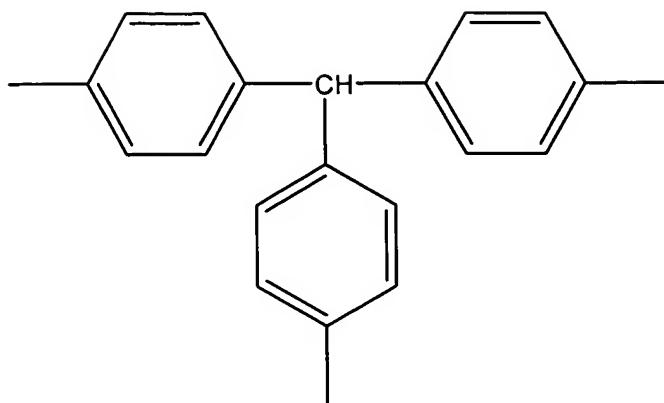
Claim 2 (original): A compound of formula Ia according to claim 1, wherein X is -O- and A is a bivalent radical of a bisphenol or of a cycloaliphatic diol, the radical of a phenol novolak or cresol novolak, the bi- to tetra-valent radical of an isocyanate/polyol adduct or the tri- to hexavalent radical of a tri- to hexa-functional aliphatic polyol.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A compound of formula Ia according to claim 1, wherein X is -O- and A is a bivalent radical of formula

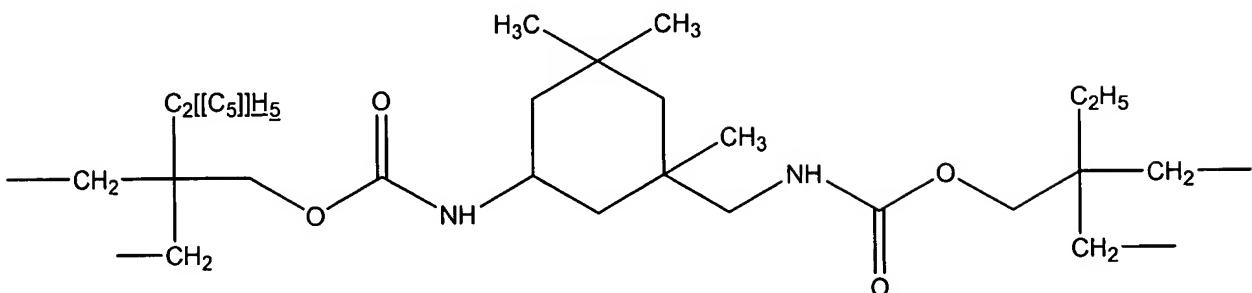


the radical of a phenol novolak or cresol novolak, a trivalent radical of formula





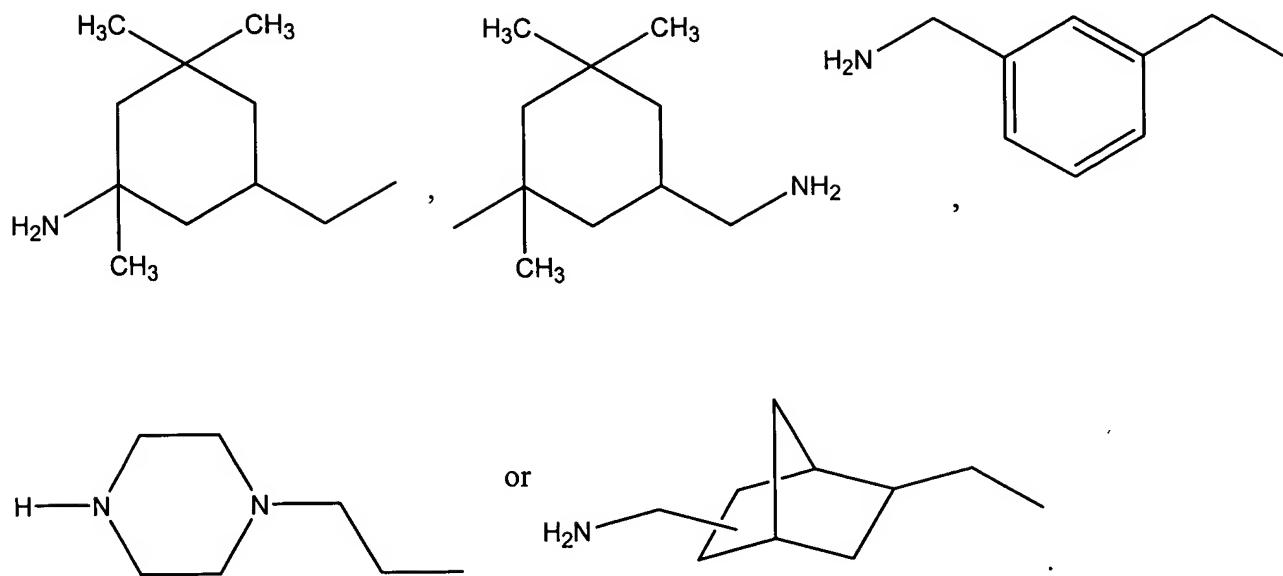
or the tetravalent radical of formula



Claim 4 (original): A compound of formula Ia or Ib according to claim 1, wherein  $R_5$  is  $C_1-C_{20}$ alkyl,  $C_5-C_{12}$ - cycloalkyl,  $C_6-C_{10}$ aryl or  $C_7-C_{12}$ aralkyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more amino groups, hydroxyl groups,  $C_1-C_8$ alkoxy groups or halogen atoms.

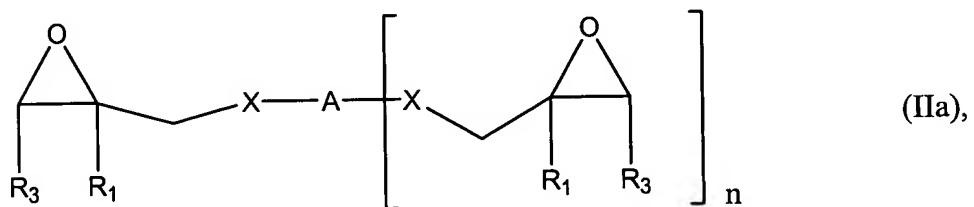
Claim 5 (original): A compound of formula Ia or Ib according to claim 1, wherein  $R_5$  is  $C_2-C_{10}$ alkyl,  $C_2-C_{10}$ aminoalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, cyclohexyl or a radical of formula  $\text{H}_2\text{N-Z-CH}_2\text{-NH-}$ , wherein Z is a bivalent cycloaliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic radical or a radical of formula  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH})_k\text{-CH}_2-$ , wherein k is 2 or 3.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A compound of formula Ia or Ib according to claim 1, wherein  $[\text{R}_1]$   $\underline{R_5}$  is n-butyl, n-octyl, cyclohexyl, benzyl, 2-aminoethyl, 4-(aminomethyl)pentyl, 5-amino-2-methylpentyl, 3-dimethylaminopropyl, 3-methylaminopropyl, 4-aminocyclohexyl or a radical of formula  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$ ,



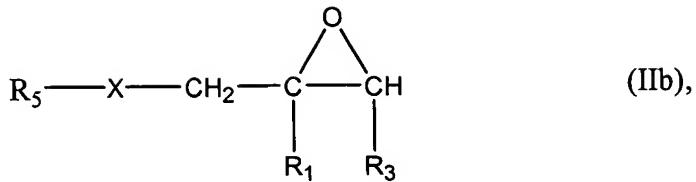
Claim 7 (original): A compound of formula Ia or Ib according to claim 1, wherein X is O- and R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are hydrogen.

Claim 8 (original): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula Ia according to claim 1 by reacting a compound of formula IIa



wherein A, X, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and n are as defined in claim 1,  
with thiourea or a thiocyanate and subsequently reacting the resulting episulfide with an amine of  
formula R<sub>5</sub>-NH-R<sub>2</sub> wherein R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are as defined in claim 1.

Claim 9 (original): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula Ib according to claim 1 by reacting a compound of formula IIb

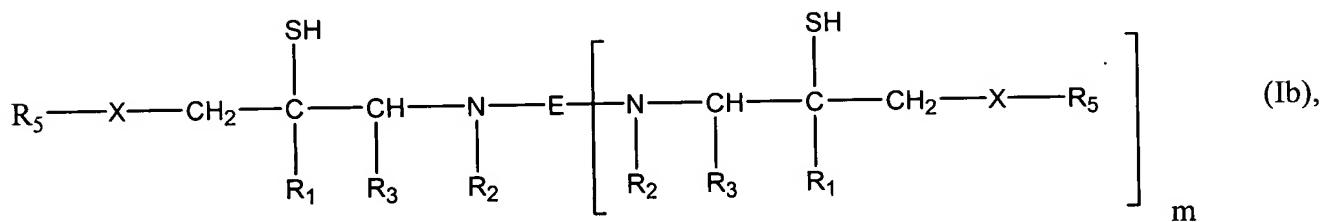
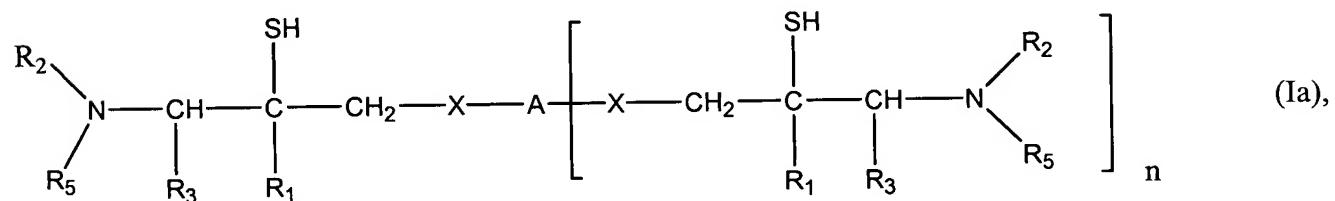


(IIb),

wherein X, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are as defined in claim 1,  
with thiourea or a thiocyanate and subsequently reacting the resulting episulfide with a  
polyamine of formula E-(NHR<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m+1</sub> wherein E, R<sub>2</sub> and m are as defined in claim 1.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A composition comprising:

- (A) an epoxy resin and
- (B) a compound of formula Ia or Ib according to claim 1



wherein A is an (n + 1)-valent aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic radical and n is an integer from 0 to 5,

E is an (m+1)-valent aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic radical and m is an integer from 0 to 3,

X is -O-, -C(=O)O or -CHR<sub>4</sub>-, with R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> together forming an ethylene group,

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are, each independently of the other, hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen or R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> together form an ethylene group,

And R<sub>5</sub> is a monovalent aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic radical.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A The composition according to claim 10 further comprising ~~in addition,~~

(C) a polyamine.

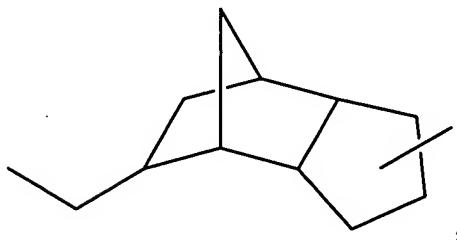
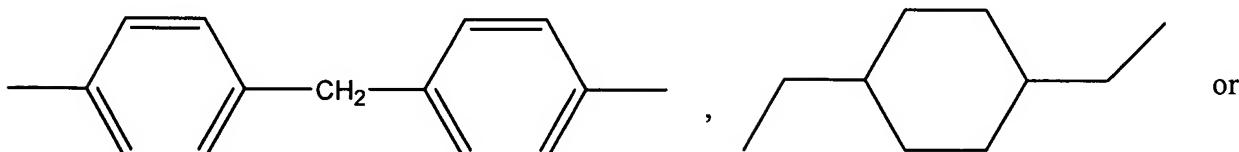
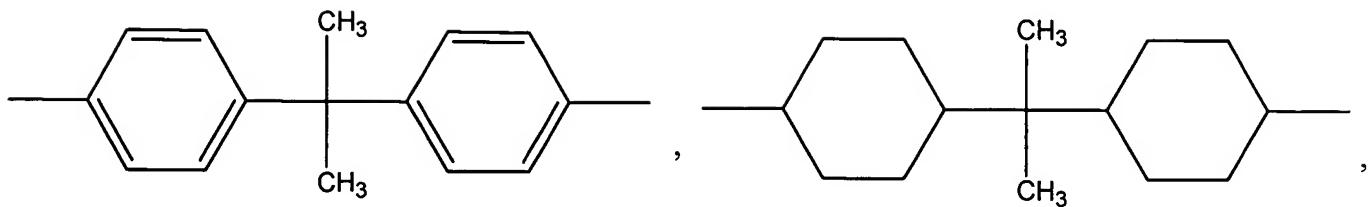
Claim 12 (currently amended): A The composition according to either claim 10 or claim 11 comprising component B and, where applicable, component C in such amounts that the sum of the amine and mercaptan equivalents is from 0.5 to 2.0 equivalents, based on one epoxy equivalent.

Claim 13 (original): A cross-linked product obtainable by curing a composition according to claim 10.

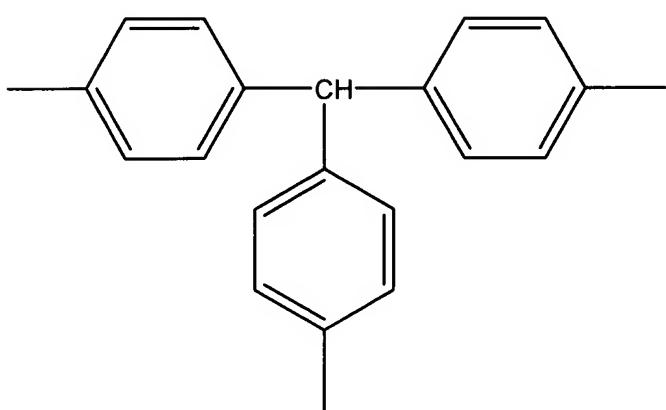
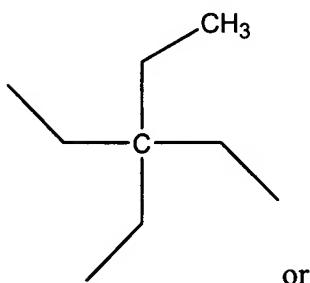
Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (new): The composition according to claim 10, wherein in the compound of formula Ia, X is -O- and A is a bivalent radical of a bisphenol or of a cycloaliphatic diol, a radical of a phenol novolak or cresol novolak, a bi- to tetra-valent radical of an isocyanate/polyol adduct or a tri- to hexa-valent radical of a tri- to hexa-functional aliphatic polyol.

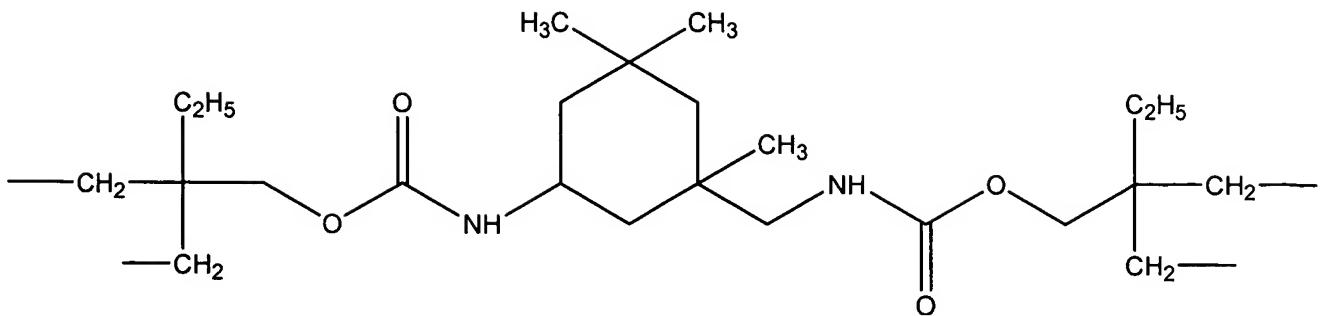
Claim 16 (new): The composition according to claim 10, wherein in the compound of formula Ia, X is -O- and A is a bivalent radical of formula



a radical of a phenol novolak or cresol novolak, a trivalent radical of formula



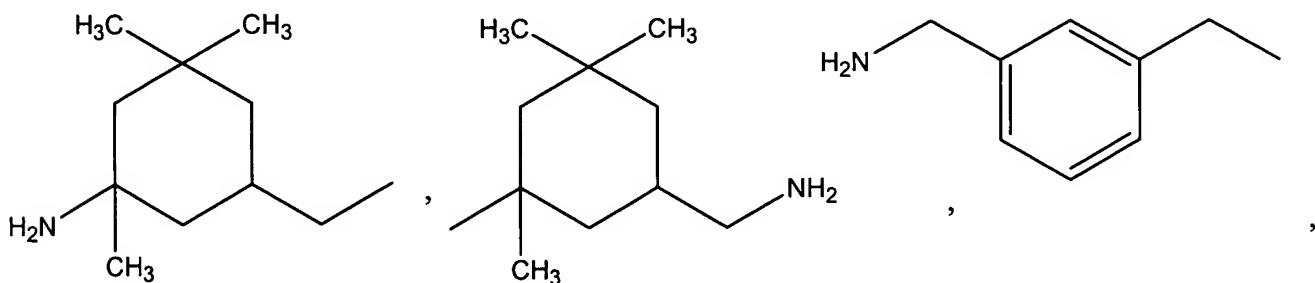
or a tetravalent radical of formula

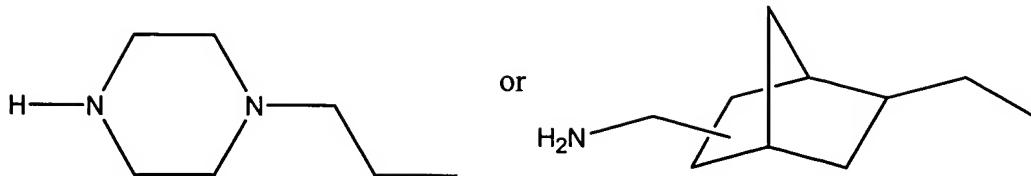


Claim 17 (new): The composition according to claim 10, wherein R<sub>5</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>aryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>aralkyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more amino groups, hydroxyl groups, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkoxy groups or halogen atoms.

Claim 18 (new): The composition according to claim 10, wherein R<sub>5</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>aminoalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, cyclohexyl or a radical of formula H<sub>2</sub>N-Z-CH<sub>2</sub>-NH-, wherein Z is a bivalent cycloaliphatic, araliphatic or aromatic radical or a radical of formula -(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH)<sub>k</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein k is 2 or 3.

Claim 19 (new): The composition according to claim 10, wherein R<sub>5</sub> is n-butyl, n-octyl, cyclohexyl, benzyl, 2-aminoethyl, 4-(aminomethyl)pentyl, 5-amino-2-methylpentyl, 3-dimethylaminopropyl, 3-methylaminopropyl, 4-aminocyclohexyl or a radical of formula -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>,





Claim 20 (new): The composition according to claim 10, wherein X is O- and R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are hydrogen.

Claim 21 (new): The composition according to claim 11, wherein the polyamine is a cycloaliphatic or aliphatic amine.

Claim 22 (new): The composition according to claim 21, wherein the polyamine has the formula R<sub>5</sub>-NH-R<sub>2</sub> or E-(NHR<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m+1</sub>, wherein R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, E and m are defined as in claim 10.

Claim 23 (new): The composition according to either claim 10 or claim 11 comprising component B and, where applicable, component C in such amounts that the sum of amine and mercaptan equivalents is from 0.8 to 1.5 equivalents, based on one epoxy equivalent.

Claim 24 (new): The composition according to either claim 10 or claim 11 comprising component B and, where applicable, component C in such amounts that the sum of amine and mercaptan equivalents is from 0.9 to 1.2 equivalents, based on one epoxy equivalent.

Claim 25 (new): The composition according to claim 10, wherein X is -O- or -C(=O)O.